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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 824)

Name of Candidate	CHANDRIMA		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	25538
Center	DELHI	Date	24.08.16

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
6	12.5	
7	12.5	
8	12.5	
9	12.5	
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11	12.5	
12	12.5	
13	12.5	
14	12.5	
15	12.5	
16	12.5	
17	12.5	
18	12.5	
19	12.5	
20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in HINDI and ENGLISH.
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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103, 1st Floor, B/1-2, Ansal Building, Behind UCO Bank, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi – 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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All the questions are compulsory and carry 12.5 marks each.

1. Rights-based approach to social policy, which has rippled through India over the past decade and a half, reorients governance from ideas of patronage towards duty of the state and justified claims of citizens. Discuss with examples. Also, explain how the rights-based approach helps in improving public service delivery.

'सामाजिक नीति के प्रति अधिकार आधारित दृष्टिकोण', जिसने पिछले डेढ़ दशकों से भारत को आंदोलित किया है। शासन को संरक्षण के विचारों से पुनः राज्य के प्रति कर्तव्य तथा नागरिकों के न्यायोचित अधिकारों की ओर ले जाता है। दृष्टान्तों के साथ इस विषय पर चर्चा करें। इस बात की भी व्याख्या करें कि अधिकार आधारित दृष्टिकोण सार्वजनिक सेवाओं के वितरण में किस प्रकार सहायता करता है?

Rights – based approach recognises the rights of people to certain claims as opposed to patronage by the state.

This has broadened the scope of right to life and liberty enshrined in article 21 of the constitution.

Many policies have been formulated just so that people can enjoy their due rights and not due to any political gimmicks.

* For example, Right to food has been recognised and many policies like Food for Work, Food Security

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Scheme, Mid-day meal scheme etc. have been made.

* MGNREGA emphasises upon right to work and gives compensation if no employment is provided.

* Recently, Right to safe environment is ~~governing~~ aim currency and hence various policies and frameworks in this area are cropping up.

* Certain rights like right of privacy and rights of communities like LGBT etc. have found their expression as opposition to government snooping and forced identities respectively.

In this way, changes are there and pointing towards a more rights-based society.

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Rights-based approach helps in improving service delivery in the following ways—

(i) It places an individual at the centre and so is more acceptable to the people.

(ii) It is effective as people can be better targeted and the target area is not ambiguous.

(iii) It also leads to promotion of democratic ideals and hence make service delivery more fair and just.

(iv) It also lets government to look at different aspects of governance leading to better management of policies.

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2. Despite high enrolment in Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), out-of-pocket expenditure on health has steadily increased over the years. In this context, highlight the achievements and shortcomings of RSBY. Also, discuss the challenges faced in its implementation.

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना (आर.एस.बी.वाई.) में उच्च नामांकन (इनरोलमेंट) के बावजूद, पिछले वर्षों में स्वास्थ्य पर आउट-ऑफ-पॉकेट खर्च में वृद्धि हुई है। इस सन्दर्भ में, आर.एस.बी.वाई. की उपलब्धियों तथा कमियों पर प्रकाश डालें। इसके कार्यान्वयन के मार्ग में आ रही चुनौतियों पर भी चर्चा करें।

RSBY is a health insurance policy of the government. It has achieved the following things till now —

* RSBY has helped people to deal with untimely accidents and more security of health.
* It has greatly helped senior citizens and various poor families especially with single mothers and children.
* It has led to various hospitals accepting the poor people for treatment who have no option to afford expensive treatments.

Apart from the above achievements, the various shortcomings are —

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* The achievements in different areas are not equal. There are high regional disparities.

* The premium covered under the scheme is not sufficient and so the requirement is still unfulfilled.
This has led to high out-of pocket expenditure despite many actions.

* Many people do not know about the scheme and are still not reachable. There are many places in rural India where hospitals are built but non-functional.

This has been the greatest irony of India that despite many efforts, proper health system still remains an elusive goal.

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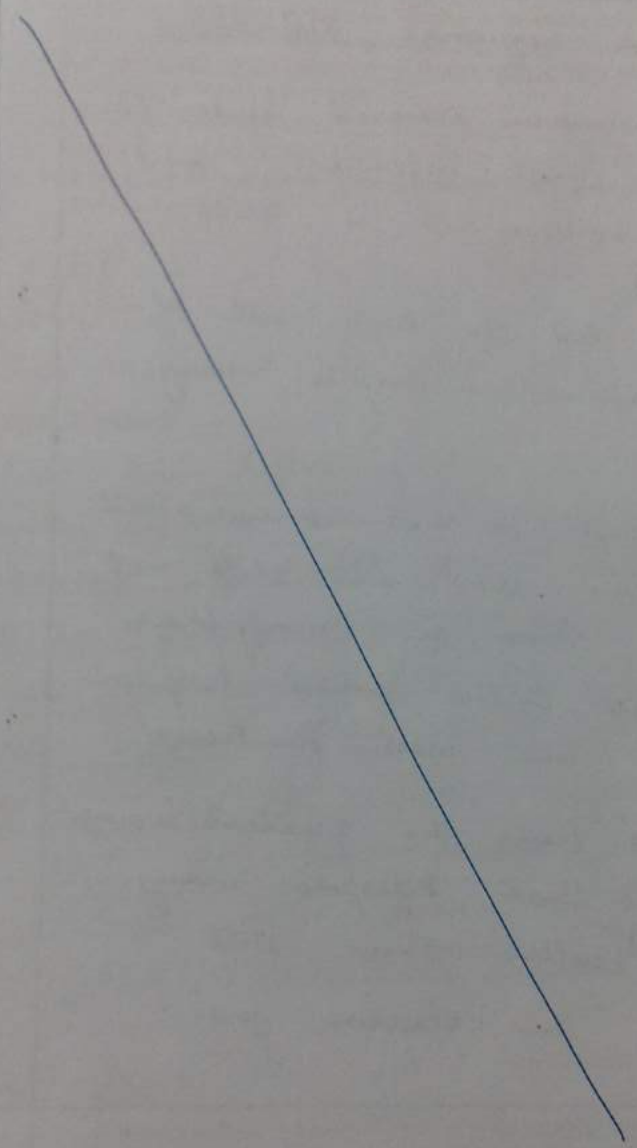

3. Unhealthy competition between Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) reduces the effectiveness of both. Discuss. How can creating a synergy between the two help in addressing development challenges at the sub-district level?

स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एस.एच.जी.) तथा पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (पी.आर.आई.) के बीच अस्वस्थ प्रतिस्पर्धा, दोनों की प्रभाविता को कम करती है। चर्चा करें। दोनों के बीच सामंजस्य स्थापित करने से उप-जिला स्तर पर विकास की चुनौतियों से निपटने में किस प्रकार सहायता मिल सकती है?

SHGs are groups that are created with the help of voluntary organisations like NGO etc to be self-dependent and able to approach the financial system.

PRIs are the 3rd tier of government, at the local level, given the constitutional status to better govern the village community.

As they tend to govern the same community, there is often the presence of competition between them.

1) Competition for funds. Devolution of funds to PRI is a task of state finance commission but

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due to inefficiency, there are long delays. In such case, SHGs can approach banks and ask for loans. They can fill up the gaps where PRIs lack efficiency. This would be good for the community at all levels.

2) Planning can be done by both SHGs and PRIs catering to needs of the members of both the groups. Dialogue, co-ordination and consensus can achieve great results.

3) Head of SHG can be inducted into the Panchayat body so that there is synergy between the two.

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→ Most SHGs cater to the needs of only their member. SHGs in co-ordination with the PRIs can lead to betterment of the whole area and expand the welfare measures.

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4. With an expected increase in old age population in the near future, there is a need to increase the ambit and reach of social safety net for their welfare. Discuss the challenges which policymakers face in design, development and execution of welfare measures for the elderly. How far do the recent measures taken by the government address these?

निकट भविष्य में वृद्ध आबादी में अनुमानित वृद्धि के परिप्रेक्ष्य में, वृद्ध जनों कल्याण के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा तंत्र के दायरे को बढ़ाने और इस तंत्र की पहुँच उन तक सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है। नीति-निर्माताओं द्वारा सामना की जा रही उन प्रमुख चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए जो बुजुर्गों के लिए कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की परिकल्पना, विकास और उनके क्रियान्वयन से संबंधित हैं। सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में उठाए गए कदम इन चुनौतियों का किस हद तक समाधान करते हैं?

Elderly people are among the most vulnerable groups in the indian society. They have been left out from the mainstream and neglected to their despair. This needs urgent changes.

1) The policy needed should be designed in such a way so that it covers the entire ageing population and gives benefits to those only who are deserving.

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Due to the structure of the Indian family, the old people are unable to leave their homes because they do not want to break the family even if they are being treated badly.

→ This is an important roadblock when it comes to execution as most elderly are silently being mistreated.

2) Due to old age, there is occurrence of many health problems and so any measure taken has to incorporate health monitoring and psychological well-being. This wants that different sectors of the government have to join hands for any successful policy and would require coordination.

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* Recent measures taken by the government include implementation of NSAP (National social assistance programme) and opening up of shelter homes, old-age homes. Various retirement plans also ensure that old age does not make people dependent on their sons/daughters.

→ These measures have not quite improved the situation much and the need of the hour is to formulate a coherent and focussed policy.

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5. Civil Society Organizations and Corporates share a symbiotic relationship, which can be leveraged to meet the developmental needs of India. Analyze. Also enumerate the CSR provisions under Companies Act, 2013.

नागरिक समाज संगठन तथा कॉर्पोरेट के सहजीवी संबंध, भारत की विकास संबंधी आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति में लाभदायक हो सकता है। विश्लेषण करें। इसके अतिरिक्त, कंपनी अधिनियम 2013 के अंतर्गत सी.एस.आर. संबंधी प्रावधानों का उल्लेख करें।

Civil society organisations are an important parts of democracy representing various interests of the people.

→ Corporates have their primary goal as profit making but it gives them more legitimacy if they share their profits with the people of the country through civil societies.

→ Development cannot afford to be lopsided as it would lead to instability in the long run. It has to be inclusive and uniform and for that the symbiotic relationship between

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between civil society organisations and corporates is essential.

→ Under CSR (Corporate social responsibility), companies can use part of their profits for a cause leading to social change.

→ This has benefits for both. Corporates make their brand-name and hence expand their markets while the benefited group also gets funds.

→ But this practice has become deceptive and companies are sometimes channeling funds to their own subsidiary leading to only gain in terms of brand value and no loss of funds.

Hence, CSR needs to be regulated to a certain extent so that no malpractice can creep into the system.

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6. According to a recent WHO report, India sees the largest number of suicides globally. In this context, enumerate the objectives and approach of India's new National Mental Health Policy. Also, explain what is Mental Health Action Plan 365.

हाल की डब्ल्यू.एच.ओ. रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, विश्व में सर्वाधिक आत्महत्याएं भारत में होती हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत की नवीन राष्ट्रीय मानसिक स्वास्थ्य नीति के उद्देश्यों तथा दृष्टिकोणों का उल्लेख करें। इसके अतिरिक्त, मानसिक स्वास्थ्य कार्य योजना 365 के संदर्भ में विस्तार से बताएं।

The fact that India sees the largest number of suicides globally is alarming. It has finally led to acknowledgement that mental health is an issue of great concern and needs urgent action without any stigma associated with it.

* National Mental Health policy has created a ~~ta~~ system where proper helplines, care systems, monitoring of suicidal persons and counselling centres will be opened up. It has taken the mental problems issue out of the closet and is a good

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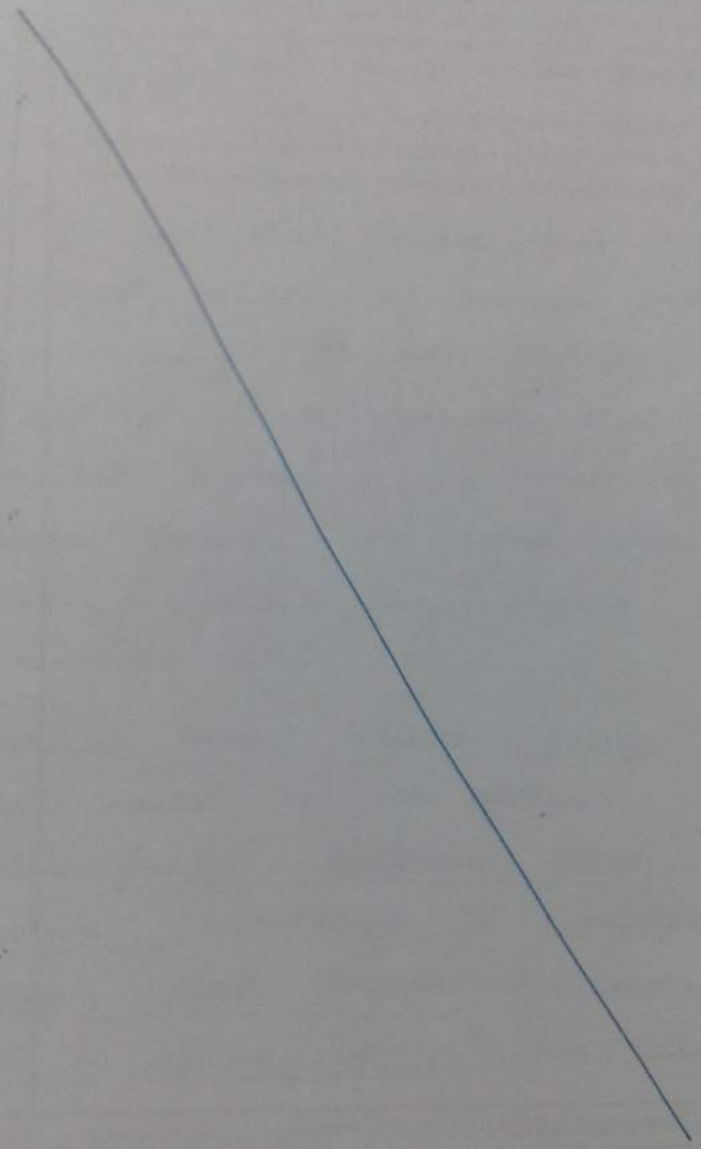

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7. Urban sanitation has not received adequate attention at the national level in the past and few initiatives have been taken to tackle deficiencies in urban sanitation. In light of this, examine whether the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan can help in solving the urban sanitation problem.

भारत में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर शहरी स्वच्छता पर पर्याप्त ध्यान नहीं दिया गया तथा शहरी स्वच्छता में व्याप्त कमियों को दूर करने के लिए कुछ ही कदम उठाए गए थे। इस कथन के आलोक में इस बात का परीक्षण करें कि क्या स्वच्छ भारत अभियान शहरी स्वच्छता की समस्याओं के समाधान में सहायक हो सकता है?

As more and more people migrate to cities leading to congestion and piling up of public waste, the issue of urban sanitation assumes a great importance.

→ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is a national level cleanliness drive. It aims to clean our roads and surroundings but the main issue is not just to keep clean but what to do with the garbage that is being created everyday.

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* The example of Delhi is apt in this case. Even if Lutyens Delhi keeps shining all day, one cannot afford to miss the dump land while crossing the border.

Though Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has improved the sanitation of many cities which are comparatively less crowded, the following provisions can be added so that the results are clear in all areas –

(i) Changes in the mindset have to be started so that people don't create waste which is non-biodegradable or recycle it when necessary.

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(ii) Proper disposal methods like incineration etc. have to be devised and new technology needs to be invented.

(iii) The inequalities in sanitation in different parts of the same city needs to be worked upon.

(iv) We can't make cities clean when surrounding area is unclean. Semi-urban areas need to be clean as well.

These provisions would target the all-pervasive uncleanliness in the country.

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8. There is a need to move away from debates of 'public' versus 'private' provision of education towards models of education provision with public funding and private management. Discuss. Can such a move impact the quality and learning outcomes in elementary education?

अब शिक्षा के सार्वजनिक बनाम निजी प्रावधान संबंधी बहसों से आगे, सार्वजनिक वित्तीय सहायता तथा निजी प्रबंधन संबंधी प्रावधान वाले शैक्षिक प्रतिदर्शों की ओर बढ़ने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा करें। क्या इस प्रकार का कदम प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा की गुणवत्ता तथा सीखने (अधिगम) की प्रक्रिया के परिणामों को प्रभावित कर सकता है?

The faults with the public provision of education are that the funds are inadequate and the implementation & functioning is poorer than the funding.

The private system is heavily funded as well as properly managed. But the provision towards public funding and private management would depend upon what kind of education we want to give to our children.

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1) If the funds have to come from public expenditure, we would have to ensure that they are delivered timely otherwise what is the use and they should be ~~effo~~ adequate.

2) Private management is professional and would lead to better teachers, facilities and ~~w~~ management of infrastructure. But to ensure the smooth functioning, funds are needed. Moreover, there has to be an incentive for ~~s~~ the private sector to join hands with govt in terms of good salaries.

Hence, the above mentioned constraints are some of the issues that can crop up

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in this policy. If the above bottlenecks are removed, the policy can lead to better education outcomes and improve the quality.

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9. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) bill recently passed by the Parliament is a regressive step towards protecting child rights in India. Examine.

हाल ही में संसद द्वारा पारित किशोर न्याय (बच्चों की देखभाल और संरक्षण) विधेयक भारत में बाल अधिकारों की रक्षा की दिशा में एक प्रतिगामी कदम है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The Juvenile Justice bill makes a provision that if a child is above 16 but below 18, he would be subjected to the critical nature of the case in deciding whether ~~to~~ he would be treated as an adult or not.

→ This is in line with the recent gory instances / incidents where a person of 17 years of age hatched a conspiracy to rape a small girl. This peculiar case shows us that a person of 17 years of age is mature enough to know the consequences and still plan

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to execute the gory rape. It is in the light of such cases, that such a law has been made.

Though child rights groups demand that any person below 18 years should be considered as a child, it is not to be forgotten that some things are so transparent that they don't need evidence.

Where child is above 16 and he has been involved in a conflict with law where his want of innocence is so transparent that regarding him/her as a child would be utter disregard to justice, the position can be justified.

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In other cases, child rights can be protected through rehabilitation, reform, juvenile homes etc. This would lead to balance between the protection of child rights and delivery of justice.

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10. "In a nation of one billion cell phones, M-governance or mobile governance has the potential to make development a truly inclusive and comprehensive mass movement". Illustrate how M-government can bring in more transparency and accountability in government functioning. Also, discuss the challenges in implementing M-government.

"एक अरब सेल फोन वाले देश में एम-शासन या मोबाइल शासन में, विकास को वास्तविक रूप में समावेशी तथा व्यापक जनांदोलन का रूप प्रदान करने की क्षमता है।" दृष्टांत के साथ व्याख्यायित करें कि एम-शासन किस प्रकार सरकार के काम-काज में और अधिक पारदर्शिता तथा उत्तरदायित्व ला सकता है। इसके अतिरिक्त, एम-शासन के कार्यान्वयन में आ रही चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें।

Mobiles have penetrated the indian scene very fast in the last decade. It has potential to change the governance for all the stakeholders.

(i) Subsidies like LPG, food, kerosene, urea etc. can directly be transferred to bank accounts and can be accessed through mobile phones.

(ii) For farmers, it is a boon as prices in various markets, weather forecasting, seeds information, sustainable methods can be just a click

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away.

(iii) For students, managing projects for schools, online courses can various scholarship portals can be accessed right away.

(iv) For poor households and women, bill payment systems and various govt. departments applications can be accessed without any procedural delay.

The open information system, in this way would lead to more transparency and removal of intermediaries would make the govt. more accountable.

→ Challenges in implementing M-government :—

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(i) Non-availability of internet facilities in the remotest parts of the country.

(ii) Lack of infrastructure like broadband wires and antennas.

(iii) Digital illiteracy - Not knowing how to use the various facilities.

(iv) Concern about cyber security and breach of privacy - Secure systems need to be in place for proper implementation.

(v) Major overhaul of government functioning and adaptability to change.

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11. The Rights of the Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014 fails to adopt United Nation Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD) in its true spirit. Examine. Also, highlight the recent suggestions made by the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment in this regard.

नि:शक्तजन अधिकार विधेयक-2014, नि:शक्तजनों के अधिकार पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के अभिसमय (यू.एन.सी.आर.पी.डी.) को सही अर्थों में अपनाने में विफल रहा है। परीक्षण करें। इसके अतिरिक्त, इस संबंध में सामाजिक न्याय तथा सशक्तीकरण से संबंधित स्थायी समिति द्वारा प्रदत्त सुझावों पर प्रकाश डालें।

The Rights of the persons with disabilities bill, 2014 tries to make disabled people live more in integration with the current society. But, in some areas, it fails to grasp the essence of UNCRPD.

* The bill has tried to project disability as some form of divinity and hence practicality is blurred.
* It has made provisions so that infrastructure becomes more accessible but what it lacks is the understanding that more than facilities, a better psychological environment needs to be created.

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The condition of disabled people is so poor in India that any little step would not be effective until major overhaul is done in changing mindsets.

→ The reccomendations of the Standing Committee needs to be taken seriously in this context.

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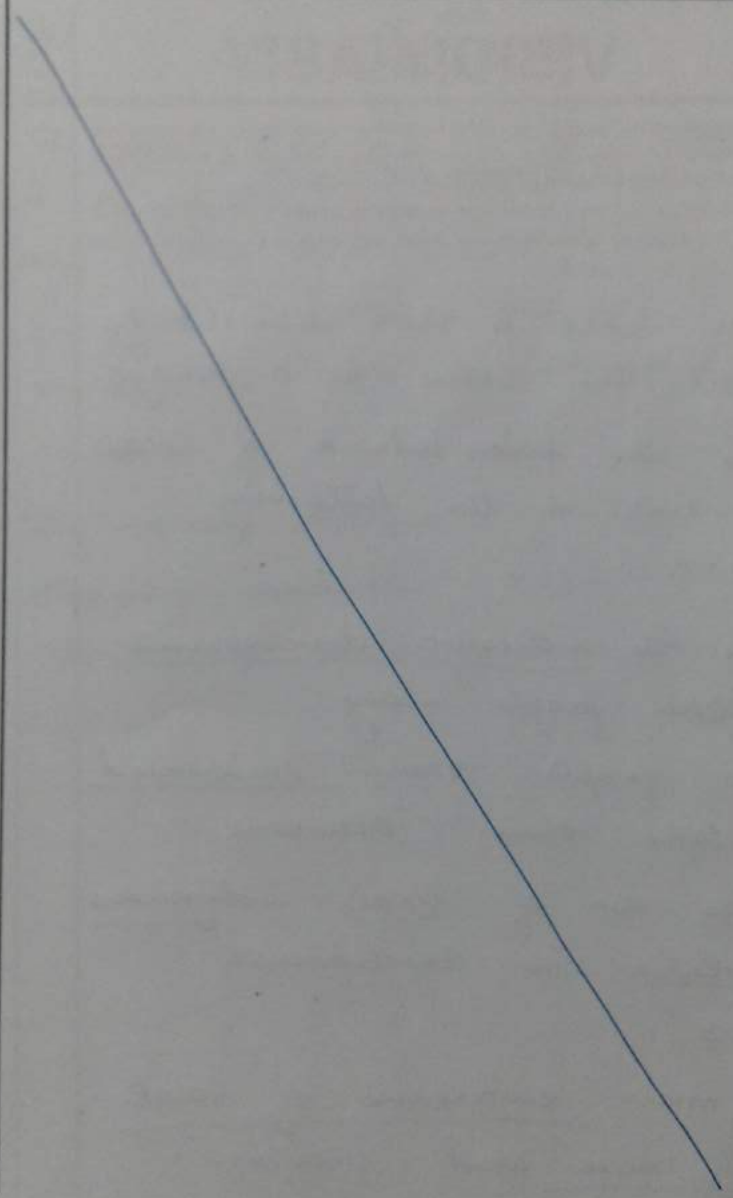

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12. An empowered Gram Sabha is the bedrock of successful local governance. In this context, analyse the role of Gram Sabha as a pillar of development. What steps can be taken to strengthen their functioning?

एक सशक्त ग्राम सभा सफल स्थानीय शासन का आधार है। इस संदर्भ में, विकास के एक स्तंभ के रूप में ग्राम सभा की भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए। उनके कामकाज को मजबूत करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

Gram Sabha is the entire body of all the voters in a village.

→ It is the ~~bedro~~ bedrock of local governance in the following ways —

* leads to inclusive development as takes people along.
* Makes people more empowered to take their decisions.
* Makes use of local indigenous knowledge in development process.
* Has more awareness of local social issues and problems.
* Community becomes more integrated and people feel a sense

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of belonging.

→ To strengthen their functioning, following measures can be taken —

* More devolution of funds to panchayati raj institutions.
* Timely meetings should be arranged.
* Various projects should be approved only after consultation with the gram sabha.
* More information sharing by the states and districts with the gram sabha to make them equal stakeholders in various state plans.
* More strengthening in tribal and scheduled areas.

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In this way, gram sabhas will truly become the tool of development and empowerment for local people as they were envisaged to be.

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13. The recent amendments to Child Labour Act seek to strike a balance between the need for education of a child and the reality of the socio-economic conditions. Critically evaluate.
बाल श्रम अधिनियम में हाल में किये गए संशोधनों का उद्देश्य किसी बालक की शिक्षा की आवश्यकता तथा सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थिति की वास्तविकता में संतुलन स्थापित करना है। आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करें।

Recent amendments to child labour act make it possible for children to work after school to support their families. This is done in light of the present socio-economic problems.

This step is taken so that the education does not take a backseat in poor households and so that the families continue to have means to support the education.

While it is logical to include such a step in a poor country like India, it fails to

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understand the burden that falls on the child and hence is flawed.

* A child cannot work after school because then education does not become what it is supposed to be but merely remains a game of statistics.

* The age of child ~~is~~ should be free from logical calculations and emotional burdens. It should be utilised in knowing and understanding things.

Moreover, the amendment has also reduced the number of occupations in the hazardous list which would infringe on child's rights.

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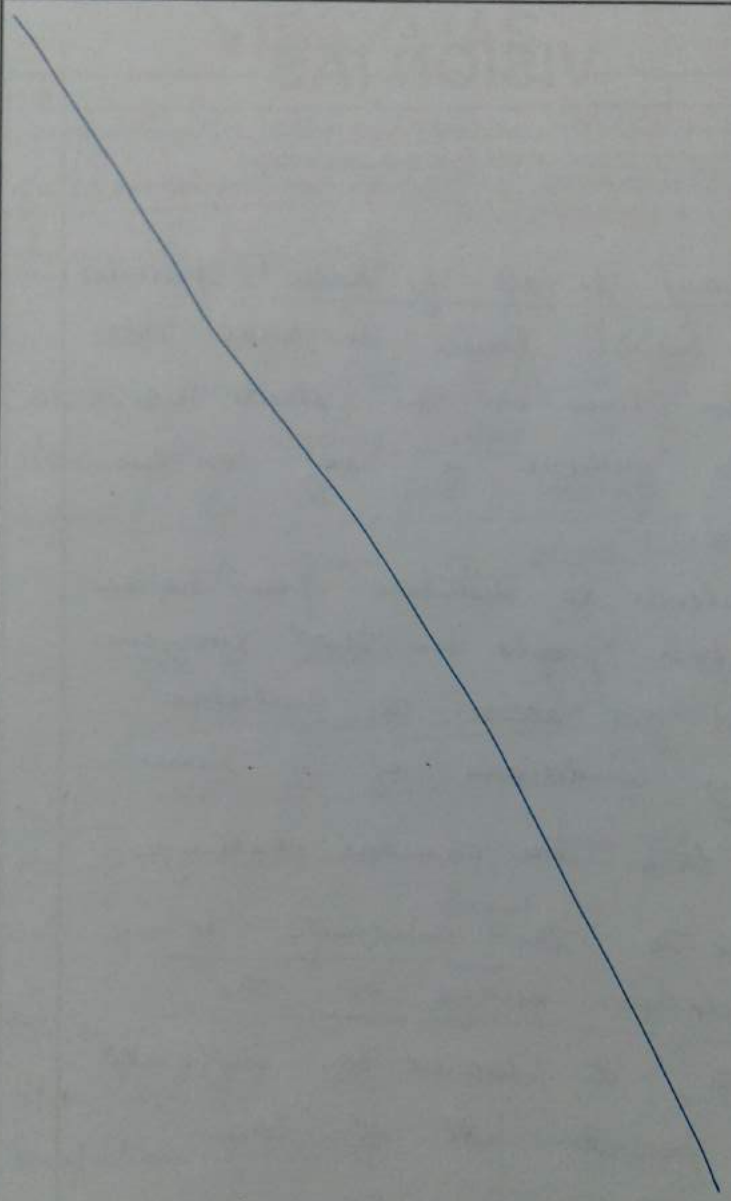

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14. Give an account of the features of 'Housing for All by 2022' mission. Also, discuss the challenges that lie ahead in its implementation.
"2022 तक सबके लिए आवास मिशन" की विशेषताओं का विवरण दें। इसके कार्यान्वयन के मार्ग में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर भी चर्चा करें।

'Housing for all by 2022' provides for building houses so that no person lives on the streets or sleeps without a roof on his head.

It intends to distribute free houses to poor people so that everyone could get access to suitable living conditions of a home.

→ But there are various challenges.

(i) Due to the immensity of population living on the streets, it would be difficult to provide all of them with housing facilities.

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(ii) Due to less space in urban India and congestion, the provision for free housing assumes an elusive character.

(iii) Proper planning and integration with the existing infrastructure needs to be done. Otherwise, this could lead to unsustainable housing practices, ~~to~~ making life more chaotic.

(iv) Houses need to be supplied with other needs like drinking water, electricity etc. for this, adequate provisions need to be formed.

(v) Private companies can be contracted for the purpose. But there should

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checks and balances.
Housing for All thus would require a lot more than paperwork and only careful & sincere efforts can guide us to the desired results

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15. Enumerate the directives laid down by the Supreme Court for police reforms in the Prakash Singh case. Discuss the challenges faced in implementing these reforms.

प्रकाश सिंह वाद में पुलिस सुधारों के लिए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा दिए गए निर्देशों का उल्लेख करें। इन सुधारों के कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें।

The current trust deficit between the police and the citizens can only be removed through radical police reforms.

→ Various directives as laid down in Prakash Singh case are as follows –

(i) There should be national level directory of criminals ~~and~~ so that intelligence network can be made effective.

(ii) The police stations should be integrated so that faster sharing of vital information is possible.

(iii) Proper training modules should be carried out during the career.

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(iv) Performance appraisal systems should be put into place so that good work can be encouraged.

(v) Better facilities and pay should be provided to the police officers so that their standard of living is improved and more competent people are attracted towards the job.

→ These reforms, for their implementation, would face the following challenges —

(i) Major overhaul in infrastructure, technology development to improve intelligence. More innovation needs to be done.

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(ii) Corruption in the department is destroying the confidence of the public in the system. This needs to be eradicated.

(iii) In places where law and order situation is fragile, for example, in naxalism-hit states, police image should be improved and more police density needs to be ensured.

(iv) Police stations are ill-equipped and more provisions for women inmates and elderly need to be made. Moreover, prisons need a major overhaul without which police reforms would not achieve the desired outcome.

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16. What is E-Kranti? How is it an improvement over National e-Governance Plan? Discuss the challenges foreseen in the implementation of E-kranti.
ई-क्रान्ति क्या है? यह किस प्रकार राष्ट्रीय ई-शासन योजना का परिष्कृत रूप है? ई-क्रान्ति के कार्यान्वयन संबंधी पूर्वानुमानित चुनौतियों की चर्चा करें।

E - Kranti is a major digital initiative which involves making use of different ICT technologies to make governance easier.
It makes JAM trinity an important tool to achive its objective and hence an improvement over National e-governance plan which limits itself to providing services through internet.

→ E- kranti makes life easier for all its stakeholders — citizens including different groups, Government, Companies,

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civil society, NGOs etc.
It aims at bringing revolution in the lives of ordinary folks through internet.

→ Challenges in the implementation of e-kranti —

(i) Digital literacy

(ii) Management of huge amounts of data

(iii) Internet Penetration in rural pockets.

(iv) Providing safe and secure transactions — protection from cyber attacks and snooping.

(v) Integration of various services and dealing with unemployment resulting from reduced physical labour.

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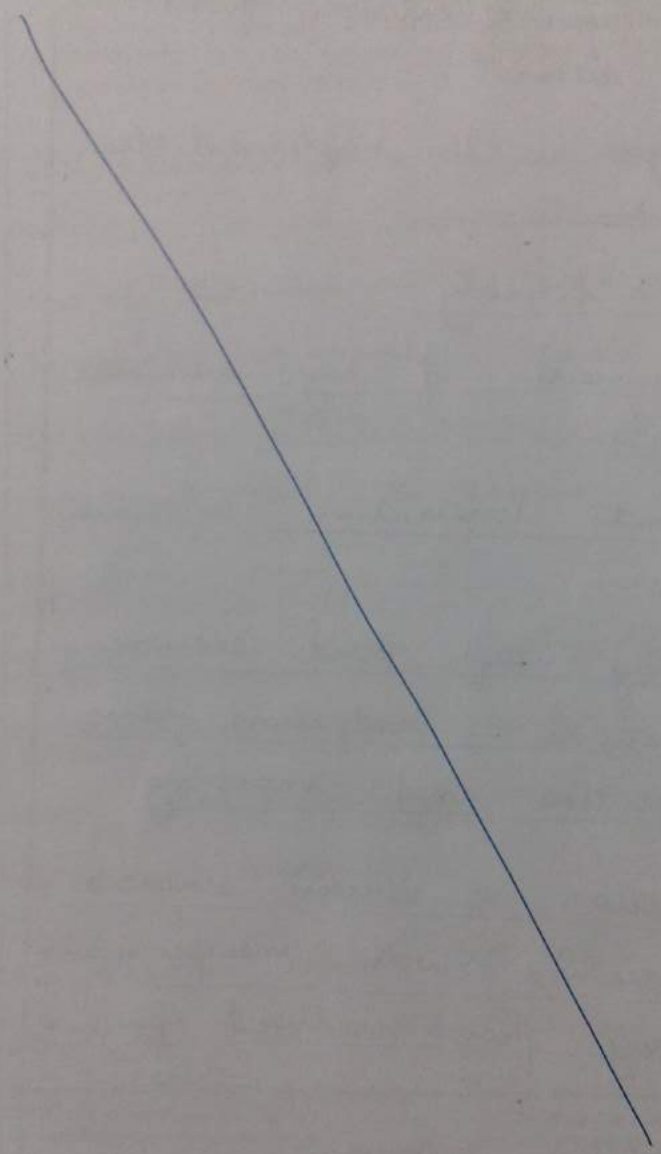

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17. Some provisions of Official Secrets Act, 1923 go against the spirit of Right to Information. Explain. In this context, examine whether this necessitates repealing of the Official Secrets Act.
सरकारी गोपनीयता अधिनियम, 1923 के कुछ प्रावधान सूचना के अधिकार की भावनाओं के विरुद्ध हैं, व्याख्या करें। इस सन्दर्भ में, इस बात की जांच करें कि क्या इसके लिए सरकारी गोपनीयता अधिनियम को निरस्त करने की आवश्यकता है?

Official Secrets Act, 1923 aims to hide sensitive information which would lead to breach of national security.

There is certain amount of information which public has a right to know so that the government remains transparent and does not misguides the public.

But, in the light of interconnected world where terrorism and other anti-social elements are using the sensitive inputs

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to carry out destruction and mass killings, it becomes imperative for government to secure some information from public limelight in the larger national interest.

In this scenario, though a debate is on the issue is called for, in the parliament, repealing the Act itself would be detrimental to the interests of the nation. Instead, right amendments are the need of the hour.

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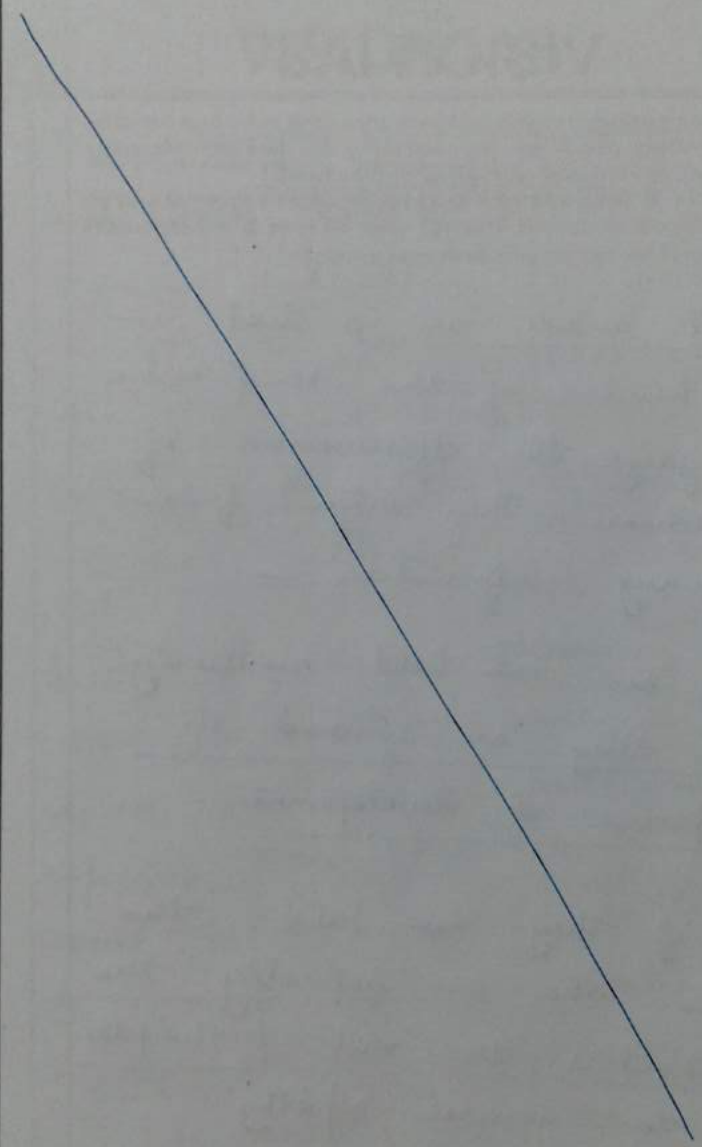

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18. Despite increasing awareness of beneficiaries, social audits have not played a significant role in reducing malpractices and detecting irregularities. Discuss. How can social audits be made more effective?
लाभार्थियों की बढ़ रही जागरूकता के बावजूद सामाजिक लेखांकन ने भ्रष्टाचार को घटाने तथा अनियमितताओं का पता लगाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका नहीं निभाई है। चर्चा करें। सामाजिक लेखांकन को किस प्रकार और अधिक प्रभावी बनाया जा सकता है?

Social audits are a tool in the hands of the beneficiaries to gauge the effectiveness of the scheme. They suffer from following infirmities –

(i) They are not held regularly. Often they are ignored in the process of development.

(ii) Even if they are held, the people who are actually the stakeholders do not participate due to general apathy.

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(iii) In some areas, social audits are carried out by officials who even coerce public to give a positive feedback.

(iv) Social audits reports do not get enough importance in upper echelons of government & hence proper corrective steps are not taken.

(v) ~~Social audits have been made another~~ They do not often cover all the aspects of the scheme and hence not complete in themselves.

Some measures to make them effective are —

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(i) Proper monitoring by the officials.

(ii) Regular discussion on the reports.

(iii) Increasing general awareness among all stakeholders.

(iv) Making them citizen-friendly by formulating easy procedures and easy-to-understand feedback forms.

(v) Penalty for corrupted officials

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19. Nutrition status is linked to non-nutrition factors. In light of this statement, examine why despite a fast growing economy and the largest anti-malnutrition programme, India has the world's worst level of child malnutrition. What steps has the Government taken to to tackle the malnutrition problem in India?

पोषण की दशा का सम्बन्ध गैर-पोषण कारकों से है। इस कथन के आलोक में, इस बात की परख करें कि तीव्र गति से बढ़ रही अर्थव्यवस्था तथा सबसे बड़े कुपोषण-रोधी कार्यक्रम के बाद भी, भारत विश्व में बाल-कुपोषण के संदर्भ में निम्नतम स्तर वाले देशों में शामिल है।

Malnutrition is not just a nutrition problem. It is related to other factors like access to safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and safe living conditions.

* It is also related to economic poverty and social exclusion.

Despite various programmes like ICDS, ICPS etc, children continue to remain malnourished due to the following reasons:—

1) Major cause of child malnutrition in India is diarrhoea which instead depends on drinking water

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Unless this gets solved, other programmes will not yield results.

2) The food items provided do not contain enough nutrients. Hence, a biofortification drive is needed.

3) Proper immunization is necessary to tackle diseases which take a toll on the health of the child.

4) Underweight children at the time of birth are more prone to malnourishment and hence proper fans should be given to pregnant mothers.

Various steps ~~tackl~~ taken by the govt. to tackle malnutrition

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are —

(i) Immunization programmes like Indradhanush. The fact that polio has been eradicated from the country is a big feat.

(ii) Matritva Sahyog Yojana and institutional deliveries have led to improvement in health of the child.

(iii) Mid-day meal scheme tries to cater to the needs of school going children.

(iv) ICDS takes cares of initial years from 0 – 6 during which child is prone to many diseases.

But, there is scope for better implementation in these policies.

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20. Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) based on the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India are described as 'State in miniature'. Elaborate. Also, critically evaluate the functioning of ADCs over the years.

भारतीय संविधान की छठी अनुसूची पर आधारित स्वायत्त जिला परिषद (ए.डी.सी.) को 'लघु रूप में एक राज्य' के रूप में वर्णित किया जाता है। व्याख्या करें। इसके अतिरिक्त, पिछले वर्षों के दौरान ए.डी.सी. की कार्य प्रणाली का आलोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन करें।

ADCs based on the Sixth Schedule is in the areas where significant tribal population is found or where strategic importance or terrain is highlighted.

They are referred to as 'State in miniature' because they are sufficient in themselves and are directly under the control of the centre.

They receive funding directly from the centre and the councils cater to the needs of the public in their own indigenous and autonomous way.

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Various achievements of the ADCs over the last decade have been as follows —

(i) Upliftment of the local people and their empowerment.

(ii) More efficient as funds are to be used in their area without any state intermediaries.

(iii) Gives space to local culture and knowledge to thrive.

(iv) Small, self-sufficient units more effectively control the crime rate and malpractices in the society leading to better governance.

At the same time there are certain challenges that need to be worked upon —

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(i) Sometimes, it might lead to feeling of isolation from the mainstream India & hence integration through cultural programs is called for.

(ii) Better infrastructure is needed and technological improvement can better integrate the society. But presence of strategic areas and difficult terrain can often hamper this development.

Hence, proper solutions need to be devised so that they become more effective.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 843)

Name of Candidate	CHANDRIMA		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	25538
Center	DELHI	Date	5/11/16

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	12.5	
2	12.5	
3	12.5	
4	12.5	
5	12.5	
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20	12.5	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are TWENTY questions printed in HINDI and ENGLISH.
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं तथा हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपे हैं।
3. All questions are compulsory.
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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All the questions are compulsory and carry 12.5 marks each.

1. Discuss the need for adhering to the road map for fiscal consolidation by fixing the fiscal deficit. Has the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 served the purpose for which it was envisaged?

राजकोषीय घाटा के निर्धारण के माध्यम से राजकोषीय समेकन (कंसोलिडेशन) के लिए एक रोड मैप का पालन करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए। क्या राजकोषीय उत्तरदायित्व एवं बजट प्रबंधन (एफ.आर.बी.एम) अधिनियम, 2003 ने अपनी परिकल्पना के उद्देश्य की पूर्ति की है?

Fiscal consolidation is crucial for the growth and sustainability of an economy. Fiscal deficit is an important parameter to measure the growth trajectory of a country.

We set targets for ourselves by fixing the fiscal deficit. To achieve the optimum level, policies and actions are formulated by the government. This is important because —

(i) streamlining the activities of various departments.

(ii) Targets can make implementation effective as goals give us a sense

of direction.

(iii) Fixing of fiscal deficit also makes us assess our present realities as there is an object to compare with.

India has seen the face of risky, high fiscal deficit in the past which has threatened the stability of our economy. The passing of FRBM Act, 2003 was to address such a situation.

This Act has solidified our resolve towards favourable fiscal deficit and has contributed towards effective policy making and has also delivered results.

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To move forward with these gains requires changes in direction as the subject of fiscal consolidation is very dynamic.

To cater to the changes in global scenario and adjust the newly-emerging forces, FRBM act should be relooked so that it continues to guide our policies in the right direction.

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2. Public investment in railways has a multiplier effect for the larger economy. Elaborate. What factors have held back the railways despite having a separate budget and considerable resources? In this context, enumerate the relevant recommendations of Bibek Debroy committee?

रेलवे में किए गए सार्वजनिक निवेश का, वृहद् अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए गुणक (मल्टीप्लायर) प्रभाव होता है। विस्तार पूर्वक बताईए। अलग बजट और यथेष्ट संसाधनों के बावजूद कौन से कारकों ने रेलवे को पीछे रखा है? इस संदर्भ में, बिबेक देबरॉय समिति की प्रासंगिक अनुशंसाएं बताईए?

For a large economy like India, Railways signify an important organ of development. Due to the huge resource base and vast reach of it, railways can have multiplier effect for the economy.

This dream would be possible if immediate changes are brought in the sector. Various problems that have tormented this sector are:—

(i) Inefficiency - Despite having a separate budget, most resources allocated are not seen at the ground.

(ii) Management – The management of this sector has been very unorderly and no heed is paid to the good business practices.

(iii) Corruption – This is one of the major ills plaguing the sector today.

(iv) Poor maintenance of infrastructure

Against all these major problems and many others, Bibek Debroy committee recommendations comes as a respite as it tries to breath fresh life into the system.

The most important solution that it envisages is incorporating business management and corporate governance in the sector.

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This will throw out the inefficiency and old practices that have halted the growth since decades. It is the most welcome step and will be a boon for people and the country which see railways as a panacea for their economy.

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3. "There is a myth that small firms create the most jobs in an economy. The fact is that small firms that grow big create the jobs". In context of the Indian economy what are the factors that prevent firms that start small from growing bigger. What progress has India made in this respect and what other measures are required?

"ऐसा मिथक है कि किसी अर्थव्यवस्था में छोटी फर्में सर्वाधिक रोजगार पैदा करती हैं। जबकि तथ्य यह है कि वही छोटी फर्में जो बड़ी फर्मों के रूप में विकसित होती हैं, रोजगार पैदा करती हैं"। भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के संदर्भ में, छोटी फर्मों को बड़ी फर्मों के रूप में विकसित होने से रोकने वाले कारक कौन-से हैं? इस संदर्भ में भारत ने क्या प्रगति की है और कौन-से अन्य उपाय आवश्यक हैं?

India is a land of contradictions. We see small firms in villages and big MNCs in cities. But the ratio of their numbers is stark. Most firms get thrown out of business before they can expand. This leads to unemployment and distress.

Various factors that have prevented their expansion are —

(i) Intense competition - While competition is good for expansion as it motivates firms to improve their quality but competition between unequals lead to the opposite:

(ii) Crony Capitalism - Big firms have strong lobbies and small firms lose out on this. This also creates unfavourable environment for small firms to grow as they do not have such connections.

(iii) Lack of credit - Small firms in villages face difficulty while getting institutional credit.

Indian government has takes a lot of measures to address this problem. Jan Dhan Yojana for financial inclusion, Make in India which will help small firms to supply material, MSME reforms etc. are steps in the right direction.

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India, with a vast market, has no reason to lose out on such bright opportunity.

We can take steps that will help us in achieving these goals. Awareness is very important for small firms so organising investor summits takes an eminent position. Small firms need to be actively supported by the government so that they become harbingers of development for the country.

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4. Enumerate the reasons why problem of NPAs is more pronounced in the public sector banks as compared to the private sector. Discuss the implications of having high NPAs in an economy. Also list the measures which the government has taken in order to address them.

निजी क्षेत्र की तुलना में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों में एन.पी.ए. की समस्या अधिक गंभीर होने के कारण बताएं। किसी अर्थव्यवस्था में उच्च एन.पी.ए. के निहितार्थ पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस समस्या से निपटने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाये गए कदमों को भी सूचीबद्ध कीजिए।

Public sector banks have the objective of lending funds to priority sectors as well as nationally important projects. This is unlike private banks which are solely guided by profits. Hence, NPAs are more in PSBs as they cannot say 'no' to a borrower even if ~~he has a~~ there is a chance to default.

High NPAs in an economy are very risky and unstable. It can lead to crashing of banking structure and the 'bubble' can burst anytime. High NPAs cause loss of money in the country.

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To address this problem, govt has taken the following measures —

(i) Infusion of Capital - Banks are given capital so that they can come out of the losses.

(ii) Asset Reconstruction - NPAs are sent to asset reconstruction companies under the SARFAESI act to convert them into valuable products.

(iii) Sectoral changes - Sectors like infrastructure are high on the list of NPAs and as such govt is trying to reduce delays and improve cost efficiency.

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NPAs pose a major problem to our country and our economy. It leads to wastage of money which could have been utilised for better things. Hence, active steps should be taken immediately and banking reforms should be undertaken as soon as possible.

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5. Mention the salient features of the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) proposed by the government to reinvigorate private investment in infrastructure sector. How is it an improvement over the EPC model?

अवसंरचना क्षेत्र में निजी निवेश को पुनर्जीवित करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तावित हाइब्रिड एन्युटी मॉडल (एच.ए.एम.) की मुख्य विशेषताओं का उल्लेख कीजिए। कैसे यह ई.पी.सी. मॉडल से बेहतर सुधार(इम्प्रूवमेंट) है?

Infrastructure sector of our economy is currently diseased with – a) NPAs

b) Delays

c) Loss-making projects

(d) Lack of investment owing to above reasons.

To reinvigorate this sector, private investment is needed desperately.

For that, Hybrid Annuity Model has been proposed. This operates via BOT which is "build, operate & transfer"

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model.

→ This is an improvement over EPC model as government now govt will provide half the year's money before the starting of the project. This will lessen the burden over private investor or partner.

→ The private partner gets time to arrange for funds and govt's infusion keeps the project viable.

Infrastructure sector especially the Highways projects need to be completed fast as they are of immense usage to the

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citizens and working of the economy.

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6. Even within the multilateral format of WTO the FTA route has served India well. Comment. How can India effectively deal with the challenges posed by the new mega regional agreements such as TPP?

यहां तक कि डब्लू.टी.ओ. के बहुपक्षीय प्रारूप (multilateral format) के अंतर्गत भी भारत को एफ.टी.ए. मार्ग (FTA route) का अच्छा साथ मिला है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। भारत टी.पी.पी. जैसे नये मेगा क्षेत्रीय समझौतों द्वारा प्रस्तुत चुनौतियों से किस प्रकार प्रभावी ढंग से निपट सकता है?

WTO signified a major change in trade practices of the world. It institutionalised the process and made it more multilateral. But when it comes to free Trade agreements, the benefit to countries especially India has been immense.

This has led to increase in overall trade with growth of indian companies domestically. Diversification of products has been another positive. Less tariffs and quotas removal has benefitted both consumers and traders.

Agreements like TPP signify another development in terms of regional trade. India, not being a member of TPP, stands to lose out in some ways.

The countries constituting TPP form a large part of world trade and various negatives accruing from this could be —

(i) Countries like Vietnam, Singapore used to be important importers of indian products. Now with TPP, they will prefer other country's products given low import duties and hence low prices.

(ii) India's Act east policy would be affected as the South asian countries would look

up to america as their big brother.

(iii) Impact on Indian economy –
The reduced trade will impact domestic producers as the choice of markets available would narrow down.

Govt, keeping the possible fallouts, should use both prudent politics and good economics to bring back India's vast market into prominence.

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7. Cashless economy is a global trend now. What are the challenges of achieving a cashless economy in the case of India? How can these challenges be overcome?

नकदीरहित (कैशलेस) अर्थव्यवस्था अब वैश्विक प्रवृत्ति बन गई है। भारत के प्रकरण में नकदीरहित अर्थव्यवस्था प्राप्त करने के समक्ष उत्पन्न होने वाली चुनौतियां क्या हैं? इन चुनौतियों का समाधान कैसे किया जा सकता है?

Cashless economy is the new trend given the benefits and ease of transactions. With advent of technology such as near field communications, every transaction could just remain a 'swap' away. Given this emerging global trend, India should not be left behind. But challenges remain as far as some issues are concerned —

(i) Financial inclusion - Not just that people are not aware,

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biggest problem is lack of facilities and infrastructure.

(ii) Internet education – The use of such cashless transactions depend on some basic knowledge regarding internet. Given the vast illiteracy, this remains a challenge.

(iii) Attitude of the people – People are less trustful of such methods and regard 'cash' as the most convenient way. This also stems from lack of awareness.

(iv) To overcome these challenges, government needs to step in. By limiting the quantity of cash that can be withdrawn.

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it can be ensured that 'big sum' transactions operate cashlessly.

By making people know about the benefits and the security of such a process, can motivate people to switch over.

This transformation would reduce the occurrence of fraud, thefts and other crimes and will make transactions fast, secure and efficient.

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8. Abysmal level of formally skilled workers in Indian economy, as indicated by the Labour Bureau Report 2014, is a cause of concern. What are the factors responsible for such a scenario? Also, examine the measures taken by the government in recent years to address the relevant concerns.

श्रम ब्यूरो रिपोर्ट 2014 द्वारा यथा इंगित, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में औपचारिक रूप से कुशल श्रमिकों का अति निम्न (Abysmal) स्तर, चिंता का कारण है। ऐसे परिदृश्य के लिए उत्तरदायी कारक कौन-से हैं? साथ ही, प्रासंगिक चिंताओं को दूर करने हेतु हाल के वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का परीक्षण कीजिए।

India is suffering from a "skilling problem" which is ironic because despite educated youth possess knowledge but no skills.

Factors responsible for such a grave situation are —

(i) Lacunae in education system —
This can be gauged from the fact that many engineers of our country do not even possess a little practical knowledge about their subject

(ii) Lack of developed industrial base – The economic transition of our country has not benefitted our industrial sector to a great extent. This has affected the skilling sector too as both are inter-related.

(iii) Lack of innovativeness – This is another roadblock as we see dearth of R & D sector in our country.

Skilling can be acquired by doing things, experimenting and applying knowledge. If no platform caters to such practices whether it is school, college, industries, how will skills be inculcated?

Govt has taken various measures recently such as PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana which involves opening up of skill centres. This comes under the banner of "SKILL INDIA" mission which has been launched recently.

These are steps in right direction but more needs to be done like reforming college education especially in technical subjects, improving R&D, industry co-ordination etc. This will take the mission forward.

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9. In the 10 years of its existence MGNREGA has won laurels as well as attracted criticism. Comment. What changes are required for the scheme to be relevant in the current scenario.

अपने अस्तित्व के 10 वर्षों में मनरेगा ने ख्याति अर्जन के साथ ही आलोचनाएं भी झेली है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। वर्तमान परिदृश्य में योजना को प्रासंगिक बनाने के लिए कौन से परिवर्तनों की आवश्यकता है?

MGNREGA has been panacea for people who have no skills are seeking employment. It provides 100 days of work and has contributed towards local development like water harvesting structures. The "wage work" has benefitted millions in the villages.

Apart from the benefits, the critisism has been of implementation. Wages are delayed sometimes and the work done is sometimes not what the area needs. It is said to be

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just symbolic of work. But this is not the true picture.

MGNREGA has changed the face of the villages of our country. Now, manual labourer gets different opportunities to work and as a result the burden on the agriculture has also reduced.

→ In the current scenario, when skilling is regarded as important, MGNREGA can successfully let the transition happen from manual to skill.

→ It has the capacity to revive the traditional industries which will be a boost to

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the MSME sector.

→ MGNREGA can be reformed by incorporating better wages and diversification of work that will lead to improvement in standard of living.

It is a great tool if used according to present needs and is truly a panacea for rural ills.

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10. Power sector reforms, crucial as they are, have remained elusive. Discuss the reasons for their failure. How far can the UDAY scheme address the issues concerning DISCOMS and improve the entire power sector value chain?

बिजली क्षेत्र में सुधार अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण होने के बावजूद दुष्प्राप्य बने हुए हैं। इनकी विफलता के कारणों पर चर्चा कीजिए। उदय (UDAY) योजना डिस्कॉम (DISCOMS) से संबंधित समस्याओं को किस सीमा तक समाधान कर सकती है और समस्त विद्युत क्षेत्रक मूल्य श्रृंखला(power sector value chain) में कैसे सुधार ला सकती है?

Power sector in our country, is still plagued by power outages and low production. This is accompanied with transmission & distribution losses.

Power sector reforms, have never truly attacked the root cause of problems. Some of these problems are —

(i) Subsidy burden — While it is true that subsidies are very important for farmers but it also leads to wastage by them

as they no longer feel the value. Rationalising the subsidies can go a long way.

(ii) Power discoms – Power discoms are suffering from losses and government needs to address that.

(iii) Renewable – Over-dependence on coal and hydro has depleted the capacity and to reach geographical remote areas, renewables have to be used.

UDAY scheme tries to tackle one of the root causes and that is health of discoms. If companies are infused with

capital, it can lead to reformation of the entire value chain from production to distribution to transmission.

This will indirectly reduce burden on consumers and will lead to more investment.

Power sector, being one of the most important sector of any economy, needs to be taken care of.

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11. Market volatility and vulnerability to weather are the major issues facing Indian agriculture. Elaborate. In this regard, critically examine the importance of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana vis-a-vis earlier insurance schemes in addressing the problems of Indian agriculture.

बाजार की अस्थिरता और मौसम के प्रति सुभेद्यता (vulnerability to weather) भारतीय कृषि के समक्ष बड़ी समस्याएं हैं। वर्णन कीजिए। इस संबंध में भारतीय कृषि की समस्याओं का समाधान करने के संदर्भ में पूर्व की बीमा योजनाओं की तुलना में प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना के महत्व का आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Two ills of indian agriculture have, rightly, been "weather dependence" and "market volatility". The recent rise in prices of pulses can be attributed to such two factors. The fact of normal or deficient rain can decide the fate of life of a farmer in India.

→ Govt has tried to reduce weather dependence by investing in irigation but the result has been very unequal in different areas.

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Similarly, to address market volatility, MSP and other price stabilisation measures are regularly taken by government.

The recent scheme of "PM Fasal Bima Yojana" seeks to ensure —

(i) compensation to farmers in case of crop loss owing to factors such as weather, including hailstorm etc.

(ii) It also includes provisions like weather forcasting and crop estimation.

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These provisions are definitely likely to reduce the burden on farmers but until and unless the whole agricultural system is reformed, this can only be a ~~burden~~ 'compensation' and not complete medicine.

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12. The Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) is a step forward from the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Compare the two policies and elaborate how HELP can encourage investment in the hydrocarbon sector as well as curtail India's export dependence?

हाइड्रोकार्बन एक्सप्लोरेशन (अन्वेषण) लाइसेंसिंग पॉलिसी (नीति) [HELP], न्यू एक्सप्लोरेशन लाइसेंसिंग पॉलिसी (NELP) से एक कदम आगे है। दोनों नीतियों की तुलना कीजिए और वर्णन कीजिए कि हाइड्रोकार्बन क्षेत्र में निवेश को प्रोत्साहित करने के साथ ही आयात पर भारत की निर्भरता कम करने में HELP किस प्रकार सहायता प्रदान सकता है?

Hydrocarbons like oil, petroleum are crucial for the growth of an economy. India is a net importer of oil from Arab countries and hence HELP can go a long way in exploring new options.

→ As technology required for such explorations especially scalect exploration is expensive, investment in this regard is highly needed.

→ India with a long coastline has huge unexplored resources and this policy will help in uncovering these valuable resources.
New sources like shale gas can also be explored.

→ Deep sea mining is another area where such policy will help.

→ Due to the strategic importance of this sector, licensing system has been designed.

→ As the world acknowledges the limited reserves of fossil fuels and the environmental damage,

presence of new technology, new sources and new processes is very crucial.

HELP which is an improvement over NELP will guide us through to achieve our aims in the hydrocarbon sector and improve our fiscal deficit owing to reduced imports.

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13. Although equal land ownership rights are essential for the economic empowerment of women, these rights are often overlooked. Discuss. What steps have been taken by the government to ensure land rights for women?

यद्यपि समान भूमि स्वामित्व अधिकार महिलाओं के आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण के लिए आवश्यक हैं परन्तु इन अधिकारों की प्राय: अनदेखी की जाती रही है। चर्चा कीजिए। महिलाओं के लिए भूमि अधिकार सुनिश्चित करने हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

Land is seen as a source of power. Since ancient times, woman and the land, alike, were considered properties of men. This led to subjugation of women.

In this scenario, equal land ownership rights for women acquire great symbolic and economic significance.

Empowerment of women can happen if they have access to the source of wealth i.e land independently and in their own capacity. This will give them confidence

and they will feel at par with men. But this area has often been overlooked as this aspect is more prominent in traditional landed societies like Haryana & Punjab.

To address this, government has tried to reform personal laws of communities as land is covered under them.

(i) Hindu Succession Act, 1956 has reformed this and now daughters are having equal right as sons when it comes to ownership.

(ii) Muslim women had rights to own land since time immemorial but this is not

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equal to that of men.
Acknowledging the difficulty faced by govt in amending personal laws, there are other areas where govt. can contribute significantly

→ Electronic land records – Sometimes, land owned by women are shown in the name of their son in records which poses a legal problem. This can be addressed.

Women empowerment can take place only when the issue is seen holistically.

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14. Micro irrigation methods would not only lead to increased productivity but also conservation of water. Enumerating the different methods of micro irrigation, identify the bottlenecks in their implementation and benefits that can acrue once they are implemented.

सूक्ष्म सिंचाई पद्धतियों से न केवल उत्पादकता बढ़ेगी बल्कि जल संरक्षण भी होगा। सूक्ष्म सिंचाई की विभिन्न पद्धतियों को गिनाते हुए उनके कार्यान्वयन में आने वाली बाधाओं एवं उनके कार्यान्वयन से प्राप्त हो सकने वाले लाभों की पहचान कीजिए।

The scheme of "Per drop, more crop" denotes the importance of micro-irrigation in indian agriculture.

Micro-irrigation is of different types including drip irrigation using bamboos and sprinkler irrigation using fountains.

→ These methods can lead to increase in productivity as now with same amount of water, more crop can be grown.

→ This also leads to better utilisation of land when it comes to "point irrigation" where water is

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directly specifically to roots.

→ This is also a water conservation technique as tubewells are canals are now disused. PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana also takes into account ecological irrigation techniques.

The problem with the implementation is that Indian agriculture is highly biased towards certain crops like rice, sugercane etc. These crops, being water intensive have led to lowering of water tables. Adoption of such techniques will require incentives from government to make the farmers diversify their production.

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This practice can be a panacea for areas like deserts and hills.

With coming of technology like rice intensification which uses less water can augment the usage of such practices.

Government needs to take in local government for the awareness of people and only with mass participation and realisation can such practices be adopted.

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15. It has been argued that the Nutrient based subsidy (NBS) scheme launched in 2010 has created more problems than it intended to solve. Examine. What measures are required to address concerns arising out of the fertilizer subsidy policy in India?

ऐसी दलीलें दी जाती रही हैं कि वर्ष 2010 में आरंभ की गई पोषक तत्व आधारित सब्सिडी (एन.बी.एस.) योजना ने समस्याओं के समाधान के बजाए कहीं अधिक समस्यायें उत्पन्न की हैं। परीक्षण कीजिए। भारत में उर्वरक सब्सिडी नीति से उत्पन्न चिन्ताओं का समाधान करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

Nutrient-based subsidy has led to indiscriminate use of certain fertilisers at the cost of others.

→ This scheme was intended ~~so~~ to make available fertilisers containing essential nutrients like N, P, K to farmers at reasonable rates.

→ The example of urea can be given to best explain the problem. Urea use has been increased to dangerous levels owing to cheap prices and easy availability.

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The effect of urea subsidy has been destructive to land, crops and health of the consumers as well as farmers.

The fertilizer subsidy policy of India needs to be relooked given the ~~sta~~ people at stake –

(i) Paving the way for organic fertilisers – The fertiliser subsidy should be rationalised in such a way so that more people prefer organic ones.

(ii) The middlemen involved in the distribution should be regulated so that they don't eat up the subsidy targeted for the poor.

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(iii) The hoarding and blackmarketing practices need to be stopped as soon as possible.

Fertilisers play a very important part in agricultural production and subsidy is one way to lessen the burden on farmers. But subsidies are mostly taken advantage of by rich farmers while poor are fooled by middlemen. This "drain of money" needs to be checked for efficient management of public money.

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16. The success of "Operation Flood" proves that thoughtful intervention in the livestock sector has the potential of acting as a growth engine for the agriculture sector and rural economy. In light of this, examine the potential of the livestock sector and the challenges it faces. Also enumerate the steps taken by the government in recent years to leverage the potential of this sector.

"ऑपरेशन फ्लड" की सफलता से सिद्ध होता है कि पशुधन क्षेत्रक (लाइवस्टॉक सेक्टर) के लिए उठाए जाने वाले विचारशील कदमों में कृषि क्षेत्र एवं ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था हेतु विकास इंजन के रूप में कार्य करने की क्षमता है। इस तथ्य के आलोक में, पशुधन क्षेत्रक की क्षमताओं एवं उसके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों का परीक्षण कीजिए। साथ ही, सरकार द्वारा हाल के वर्षों में इस क्षेत्रक की क्षमता का लाभ प्राप्त करने हेतु उठाए गए कदमों को गिनाइए।

Livestock sector, when linked with agriculture, can uplift the rural economy and economic status of poor. "Operation flood" has highligted the potential of this sector.

→ The agricultural produce can efficiently be used as fodder for animals and cow dung can be used as a manure. This inter-dependence needs to be highlighted.

* But the sector is not without its challenges —

(i) Low technological inputs - The conditions in which animals are reared are very undeveloped as compared to other countries. This leads to diseases owing to unhygienic premises.

(ii) Low output - Animals are not able to give maximum output as care is not taken. Medical experts should be consulted and proper food be given.

(iii) Marketing - Villagers do not possess marketing skills and they are unable to reach big markets. The success of "Amul" was in part owing to the marketing via advertisements and songs.

Government has come up with various measures which will increase the possibility of value addition and hence increase the income.

→ The food processing sector can come to the rescue by providing investment and technology. Food Technology parks can help in development of this sector.

But we need to continue supporting farmers in their initiatives by credit support & other facilities to make rural economy developed.

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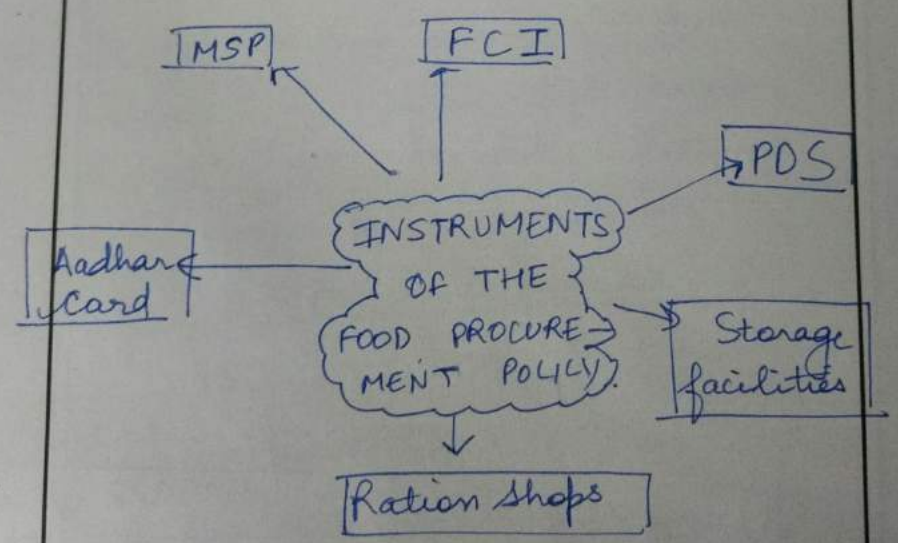
17. What are the twin objectives of government food procurement policy in India? Discuss the instruments of this policy. Do you think there is an urgent need for rationalization of MSP policy in India?

भारत में सरकारी खाद्य खरीद (अधिप्राप्ति) नीति के दोहरे उद्देश्य क्या हैं? इस नीति के साधनों पर चर्चा कीजिए। क्या आप यह मानते हैं कि भारत में न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (एम.एस.पी.) नीति को तत्काल युक्तिसंगत बनाये जाने की आवश्यकता है?

The twin objectives of government food procurement policy are —

(i) Making available buffer stock for unfavourable times.

(ii) Supporting the farmers when price in market falls below MSP.



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The food procurement policy of India has been subjected to various criticisms but the most important one has been regarding minimum support price :-

(i) Only for certain crops - Over-production of rice & wheat and less space to other protein rich crops like pulses.

(ii) Benefit to rich farmers - Poor farmers are often not able to get the benefit due to middleman & corruption.

(iii) PRE-SOWING announcement of MSP - This leads to sowing of rice & wheat only as MSP declared is of very high rate.

(iv) Filter through middlemen, hardly any benefit to farmer

All these factors necessitate ~~that~~ MSP policy should seriously be reformed for better targeting and results.

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18. Discuss the potential of Food Processing Industry with regards to employment generation in India. What are the key impediments which need to be overcome before the sector can become internationally competitive and achieve high growth?

भारत में रोजगार सृजन करने के संबंध में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग की संभावनाओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। वे प्रमुख बाधाएँ कौन-सी हैं जिन्हें इस क्षेत्रक को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाने एवं उच्च विकास प्राप्त करने हेतु दूर किए जाने की आवश्यकता है?

As agriculture is heavily burdened with people, often leading to "DISGUISED UNEMPLOYMENT", food processing industry can divert the people to this value-addition industry.

This will be achieved due to the following factors —

(i) Linked with agriculture so easy to setup - Agricultural products like sugarcane can be easily converted into jaggery.

(ii) Development of transport - Food processing industry will lead to development of other ancillary services like transportation,

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storage etc. Hence, leading to more employment.

(iii) Development of Cottage industries
Village industries like those of making earthern pots will also expand as food, processed, needs containers to reach markets. This will give aesthetic village touch to the product.

Befor the food processing sector can become highly competitive, it needs to expand its resource base and technological resource.

→ This can be done by investment and so setting up food technology parks is a step in right direction.

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→ It needs to be innovative and unique and geographical indications can play an important part. This will fetch buyers who are interested in traditional & exotic products.

→ Awareness & market exposure should take place gradually.

This sector has the potential to become great if proper direction & support is given.

19. Mixed farming for the resource poor farmer is mostly a poverty induced option. Comment. What role can the government play to help farmers realise the potential from mixed farming.

संसाधनहीन निर्धन किसानों के लिए मिश्रित कृषि मुख्य रूप से निर्धनता प्रेरित विकल्प है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। मिश्रित कृषि की संभावनाओं को साकार करने हेतु, सरकार किसानों का सहयोग करने में क्या भूमिका निभा सकती है ?

Most rich farmers will be seen to be harvesting only one crop for the entire year; either it will be water-intensive or highly fertilisir dependent.

But poor farmers cannot afford such expensive inputs. They then adopt mixed farming which allows them to harvest the crop according to money available and weather changes.

But this forced option is a ~~but~~ great tool for ecological agriculture and nutrient diversification.

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To help farmers realise its potential

(i) Awareness about the soil benefits – Legumes are often grown after a cycle of 6 months as they help restore the nitrogen from the atmosphere. This dispenses the need of fertilisers.

(ii) Tackling malnutrition – As most agriculture is also subsistence, govt. needs to highlight the benefits of eating a diverse diet which is possible only if mixed farming takes place.

(iii) Money saved on pesticides – Crops grown are natural pesticides and weedicides.

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Government can also incentivise by providing better rates and rationalising MSP policy.

Mixed farming is the way forward given the rise of environmental ethics & diet changes from grain-based to fruits.

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20. What do you understand by cropping pattern? What are the factors that influence the cropping pattern in India? Is there a need to change the cropping pattern in the country keeping the agro-ecological concerns in mind?

फसल प्रतिरूप (क्रॉपिंग पैटर्न) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में फसल प्रतिरूप को प्रभावित करने वाले कारक कौन से हैं? कृषि-पारिस्थितिकी चिंताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या देश में फसल प्रतिरूप को परिवर्तित करने की आवश्यकता है?

Cropping pattern in india is guided by weather changes and government policies.

In North India, seasons which are the most important are Kharif, Rabi and Zaid. Different crops are sown in each of them.

(*) Cropping pattern is nothing but the way in which crops are sown and it includes —

(i) what kind of crops are sown?

(ii) In how much quantity?

(iii) Is a single crop sown at one

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time or multiple crops ?

(iv) What is the year-long pattern ?

Owing to the agro-ecological concerns, cropping patterns need to be changed in the country

(i) Mixed farming should be promoted.

(ii) Diversification of agriculture should take place.

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(iii) Less water-intensive crops need to be alternated with water-intensive ones to conserve water.

(iv) Natural weedicides, herbicides & pesticides need to be grown alongwith crops.

Our aim should be to move towards organic agriculture and take example from our north-eastern state 'Sikkim' in this regard.

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